

## ABSTRACT

A magnetic recording medium capable of high-density recording and suitable for linear recording/reproducing and the reproduction of  
5 signals using a magnetoresistive head is provided. The magnetic recording medium includes a non-magnetic substrate and a magnetic layer having an oblique columnar structure formed on the non-magnetic substrate. The magnetic layer includes a first ferromagnetic metal thin  
10 film and a second ferromagnetic metal thin film whose direction of growth of its oblique columnar structure is the opposite of that of the first ferromagnetic metal thin film.  $Mr \cdot \delta$ , the product of residual magnetization  $Mr$  and film thickness  $\delta$ , satisfies  $3 \text{ (mA)} \leq Mr \cdot \delta < 30 \text{ (mA)}$ . Thickness  $d_1$  and thickness  $d_2$  of said first and second ferromagnetic metal thin films, respectively, satisfy  $40 \text{ (nm)} \leq d_1 + d_2 \leq 100 \text{ (nm)}$  as well as  $1/2 \leq$   
15  $d_2/d_1 \leq 1$ . Coercivity  $H_c$  of said magnetic layer satisfies  $H_c \geq 100 \text{ (kA/m)}$ .